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## Sees Promising Improvement In Quality Of Foxes

**Emphasis On Quality Production Reassuring Sign Of The Times In The P. E. I. Fox Industry.**

Mr. B. W. Robinson, past president of the Fox Exhibitors Association and connected with the fox industry since its inception, is very optimistic of the future of the silver fox business, and says that much of its success is due to the Fox Exhibition. He has noticed a great improvement in the quality of the herds since the inauguration of the show, which was the means of teaching the ranchers what constitutes a good fox not only for show purposes but for breeding and also in pelt value on the market.

The fox show is a means of getting the people together to discuss the various problems of raising foxes and it is quite noticeable on visiting the different ranches how the quality of the animals has been improved within the last three years.

**Improved Breeding**  
 The average rancher, Mr. Robinson states, is showing greater interest in the quality of his foxes today and is making an effort along improved breeding. This year's pups are decidedly of a better quality owing to the fact that the rancher has found out the defects in breeding and has made an honest effort to correct them, this is very noticeable in the smaller ranches, where in former years there was more or less an indifference to quality.

**Promising Pelt Prospects**  
 Speaking of the prospects for the pelt market this year Mr. Robinson says, that prominent fur dealers from Europe are very optimistic in regard to the sales. The market is clean and they think that the trouble in Ethiopia will not interfere to any great extent with the disposal of the pelts. There is every indication that the sales will be good and prices firm.

Judging from the forces that are being groomed for the show Mr. Robinson predicts that the quality of this year's exhibits will surpass any previous showing.

## Modern Problems In Fox Industry

**Time Has Arrived For Readjustment Of Viewpoint On Part Of Local Breeders Suggests Prominent Rancher.**

(By B. Graham Rogers, Summerside, P.E.I.)

In these days in the Silver Fox business it is pretty hard to make any statement and be absolutely sure that, "on the average," that statement is absolutely correct so, therefore, if you will, please accept what I have to say as being my own personal belief. Think these questions over very carefully and decide for yourself whether you believe the same as I do.

**A Great World Industry**  
 I believe that the Silver Fox business is so large today that the time has now arrived for us to base our operations on general trends and tendencies rather than on individual cases such as we did in years gone by. As far as I am concerned personally, I find it difficult sometimes to really grasp the entire extent of the Silver Fox business as it is throughout the world today. In other words, it is sometimes difficult to get away from our purely local surroundings and visualize what is taking place in this very large industry. We know that, today, Prince Edward Island produces not over fifteen per cent of the total world annual supply of Silver Fox pelts. Probably this statement may come as a real shock to some breeders here in this Province, but, nevertheless, it is a fact. However, there is one redeeming feature, namely, that the fur trade of the world still prefers to

have Prince Edward Island pelts, and many actual dealers and manufacturers have told me that pelts from Prince Edward Island seem to dress out better, and they have less trouble with them during the manufacturing process than they do on the average with pelts from other parts of the world.

**Market Tendencies**  
 This article must, necessarily, be brief, and so I will come directly to the several points which today stand out the most pronounced in this business apart from the actual marketing end of the business, if gone into in detail, would take a special issue of the Charlottetown Guardian alone to tell it all. The first startling point is, that it has become quite noticeable at auction sales in New York, Montreal, London and Paris that, on the average, the necks and fore-shoulders of Silver Fox pelts are becoming weaker, and there is a great danger in store for the industry if this tendency is allowed to become worse. Therefore, this is one thing that we, as breeders, must pay particular attention to in the future.

Another tendency which is showing up is that a larger percentage of pelts are pale silvers and of a more chalky colour than heretofore. This shows the absolute necessity of keeping some of our very best dark males for breeding purposes, and I am convinced that it is only a matter of a very short time before the black and extra dark classes at the Fox Shows will be considered equally as important as the Extra Pale Silvers, or even more so. Every breeder of Silver Foxes in the Province of Prince Edward Island should keep these two points in mind more surely than ever before.

## ENTRIES FROM EVERY PART OF PROVINCE

**600 Or More Prime Black Beauties To Be Exhibited.**  
 (Canadian Press)

Breeding stock purchasers from different parts of the Dominion will be attracted to Charlottetown by what is billed as "the greatest silver fox show in the world." Prince Edward Island, birthplace of the silver fox industry will parade 600 or more of ranchers' best specimens and the black beauties that win silver cups big enough to jump into are bid for by fox farmers anxious to improve their stock.

Last year an Ontario buyer paid \$500 for one of the grand champions.

"From a small beginning six years ago, our show has grown in size and importance every year," Walter Shaw, secretary of the Silver Fox Exhibitors' Association said yesterday. "It will as in other years attract a large number of breeders from the rest of Canada. Prince Edward Island still has the finest strains of silver fox."

**Many Exhibitors**  
 Entries for the exhibition were flowing in from every part of the Island. Dr. A. B. Teacies of Sussex, N.B., the only New Brunswick entry last year was expected to again be represented.

Two big store windows full of glittering silverware, cups and medals offered for competition went on display in Charlottetown today. There are 17 championship trophies and more than \$2,000 in cash awards.

The exhibition was started as an experiment in 1929, Mr. Shaw explained. It was enthusiastically received by the ranchers and the following year the association received 750 entries.

Then competition became keener and keener. Breeders showed great discrimination in choosing their vixens for show purposes. A fox distemper epidemic in 1931 prevented an exhibition being held in that year but it came back strong in 1932.

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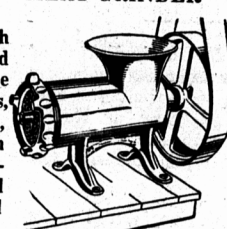
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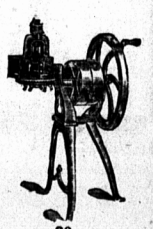
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